



## California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

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### **CPUC EN BANC EMPHASIZES NEED FOR CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY**

SAN FRANCISCO, August 23, 2012 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on August 21, 2012, hosted its first en banc on sustainable utilities, resulting in the state's investor-owned utilities launching an inter-utility working group to focus on best practices and developing goals and metrics.

Sustainability was defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. All four of California's investor-owned utilities have shown leadership in this area and presented overviews of their programs.

En banc speaker Ralph Cavanagh of the Natural Resources Defense Council said that if California was as inefficient as Texas then Californians would spend \$30 billion more for electricity on an annual basis. He said that in order for sustainability by utilities to be a value-driven proposition it, "must transcend corporate philanthropy and compliance, must be a core value of the enterprise, and the business model for the utility has to be consistent with sustainability performance. But we are not there yet, but we started on the journey earlier than any other state."

CPUC President Michael R. Peevey who spearheaded the en banc said, "We simply cannot achieve an earth that is truly livable without focusing full-time on sustainability in all we do." President Peevey called on the utilities to investigate tying their executive bonuses to sustainable performance.

CPUC Commissioner Mark J. Ferron noted, "The emphasis on sustainability needs to come from the top and radiate throughout the entire organization, otherwise it becomes a 'tick the box exercise,' or



worse, a public relations ploy.”

For copies of presentations and a video webcast archive of the en banc, please visit

[www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Climate+Change/CPUC\\_Sustainable\\_Uilities\\_En\\_Banc.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/Climate+Change/CPUC_Sustainable_Uilities_En_Banc.htm).

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